

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 BIB-01 /060 W  
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P R 031652Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2907  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14456

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT UR  
SUBJECT: SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDUM MEETS: TSVIGUN AND KATUSHEV  
RECTIVE AWARDS

SUMMARY: SOVIET TV CARRIED FILM OF SEPTEMBER 30 SS  
PRESIDUM MEETING, SHOWING PRESIDUM MEMBERS ARRANGED  
AT TABLE IN ORDER OF PARTY SENIORITY, WITH SHCHERBITSKIY  
SEATED TO BREZHNEV'S LEFT. FIRST DEPUTY KGB CHAIRMAN  
TSVIGUM AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
KATUSHEV RECEIVED AWARDS ON THEIR RESPECTIVE BIRTHDAYS.  
END SUMMARY.

1. AS ANTICIPATED, THE SS PRESIDUM MET SEPTEMBER 30  
TO APPROVE THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION AS AMENDED BY THE  
CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION. THE ONLY UNUSUAL ASPECT  
OF THE MEETING WAS THE MEDIA COVERAGE IT RECEIVED. FOR  
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THE FIRST TIME IN OUR MEMORY, A MEETING OF THE SUPREME  
SOVIET PRESIDUM WAS SHOWN ON SOVIET TELEVISION, AND  
THE TASS ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING WAS GIVEN PROMINENT  
FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN THE CENTRAL PRESS--THIS UN-  
DOUBTEDLY THANKS TO THE FACT THAT, FOR THE FIRST  
TIME SINCE KHRUSHCHEV'S OUSTER, BREZHNEV CHAIRED A  
PRESIDUM MEETING.

2. THE TV COVERAGE THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 30 SHOWED THAT SEATING AT THE MEETING, AS AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION, WAS BY PARTY SENIORITY. BREZHNEV SAT AT THE HEAD OF THE CONFERENCE TABLE;  
--TO HIS RIGHT,ALONG THE TABLE SAT GRISHIN, ROMANOV, MASHEROV,  
PONOMAREV AND GEORGADZE;  
--TO BREZHNEV'S LEFT WERE SHCHERBITSKIY, KUNAYEV, RASHIDOV AND KAPITONOV.  
ALTHOUGH SHCHERBITSKIY'S PLACEMENT WAS EXPLAINABLE IN TERMS OF THIS PARTY SENIORITY--JUNIOR TO GRISHIN, BUT SENIOR TO KUNAYEV BY VIRTUE OF LONGER TENURE AS A CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER (BOTH SHCHERBITSKIY AND KUNAYEV BECAME FULL POLITBURO MEMBERS IN NOVEMBER 1971)--IT WAS STRIKING TO SEE SHCHERBITSKIY IN THE SEAT NEXT TO BREZHNEV THAT HAD BEEN OCCUPIED BY KOSYGIN AT THE SEPTEMBER 27 CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION MEETING.

3. TWO RECENT "BIRTHDAY" AWARDS SHOULD BE NOTED:  
--FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE KGB TSVIGUN (WHO IS RUMORED TO BE BREZHNEV'S BROTHER-IN-LAW) RECEIVED THE "HERO OF SOCIALIST LABOR" TITLE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY, SEPTEMBER 27.  
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--THAT TSVIGUN HAS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP TO BREZHNEV WAS INDICATED BY HIS PRESENCE AT THE AIRPORT IN CONNECTION WITH BREZHNEV'S RECENT TRIPS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND THE CRIMEA (ALSO PRESENT WAS BREZHNEV'S SON-IN-LAW, MVD DEPUTY MINISTER CHURBANOV);  
--A SMALL ITEM ON PAGE TWO OF PRAVDA OCTOBER 1 ANNOUNCED THAT FORMER CC SECRETARY AND NOW DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS KATUSHEV HAD BEEN AWARDED AN ORDER OF LENIN ON HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY; THE TEXT OF THE DECREE CITED ONLY HIS SERVICE FOR THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, SUGGESTING BY ITS SILENCE ABOUT HIS PARTY WORK THAT KATUSHEV'S RECENT DEPARTURE FROM THE SECRETARIAT WAS A DEMOTION.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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